

THE PALATKA NEWS

and Advertiser.

NEW SERIES VOL. XXIII. NO. 19.

PALATKA, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915.

\$1.00 Per Year

NOTICE!

A NEW LINE OF

BOY'S PALM BEACH SUITS

JUST ARRIVED, IN PLAIN AND STRIPES,
ALSO IN BLUE AND WHITE PIN STRIPE.

PRICE \$5.00

Boys' Double Service and Blue Serge Suits

With extra pair of Trousers

Prices \$5.50 and \$6.00

WE STILL HAVE A BIG LOT OF SHOES LEFT OVER FROM THE SALE

Men's \$5.00 and \$6.00 grades we are closing out, \$3.89 to	2.39
Ladies' Lace and Button Shoes, value up to \$4.00 for	2.19
Ladies' Oxfords and Pumps values up to \$3.50, closing out at	1.00
Children's Slippers up to \$1.50. Closing at 39c to	50c

Curry's Shoe Store

IN THE NEW MERRYDAY BLOCK

SEE THE MYSTERIOUS
CLOCK IN OUR WINDOW

The Putnam National Bank of Palatka

PALATKA, FLORIDA

Total Assets, June 10th	\$700,000.00
Liabilities to Depositors	495,000.00
Assets over Liabilities to Depositors	205,000.00

According to the New York Financial Review we are the second strongest National Bank in Florida.
Our Safe Deposit Boxes, double lock system, are the best make. \$3.00 per year.
We solicit your banking business. Foreign Exchange issued.

GEO. E. WELCH, President
F. H. WILSON, Vice-President

A. S. WILLARD, Cashier
CHAS. BURT, Asst. Cashier



Ford economy is not alone in low price, but in the low cost to operate and maintain. For an average cost of two cents a mile, they serve and save; add luxury to pleasure and bring profit to business. Over 700,000 owners have found the Ford dependable, economical and easy to operate. And in any contingency, there's a Ford agent close at hand—with a complete stock of parts. That's "Ford After-Service for Ford Owners."

Buyers will share in profits if we sell at retail 300,000 new Ford cars between August 1914 and August 1915.

Runabout \$440; Touring Car \$490; Town Car \$690. Coupelet \$750; Sedan \$975; fully equipped, f. o. b. Detroit.

On display and sale at THE FORD SALES COMPANY, Palatka, Walter W. Tilghman, Manager.

YOUR BUSINESS "CHANNEL" WILL BESTREWN WITH THE "MINES" OF ADVERSITY IF YOU DON'T "ALLY" IT WITH THE GREATEST "POWER" IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS—ADVERTISING. USE HER "MINE SWEEPERS." THE NEWS IS A SPLENDID MEDIUM.

FLORIDA WOODENWARE PLANT DESTROYED

Important Palatka Manu-
factory Consumed in Fierce
Conflagration.

Loss Will Reach \$50,000 with but
\$20,000 Insurance. Many Work-
men Temporarily Out of
Employment.

A fire which started on the grounds of the Florida Woodenware Co's plant at a point between one of the warehouses and the veneer shed about 2 o'clock, spread with a rush over the intervening dry space to the veneer shed, where there was much varnish. There was a brisk wind, everything was dry as tinder, the varnish was especially inflammable; there was at the outset lack of pressure from the water hydrant. That tells the story of the burning of one of the leading manufacturing industries of this city on Tuesday afternoon last.

Mistakes were made. In the first place whoever gave the alarm sent the same to the Palatka Gas Light & Fuel Co's plant where the city alarm is located, BUT NEGLECTED to notify the FIRE STATION. Fire Engineer Phillips heard the alarm, but he was ready to go to the rescue, but he didn't know where to go; he waited for the telephone to inform him. The information failed to come; then he heard the blowing of the whistle at the Wilson Cypress Co's mill, and he concluded the fire was in that direction, so he took a chance and headed for the mill.

Arriving at the fire it was seen that there would be a shortage of hose, so Chief Phillips rushed back to the engine house for more hose. Here he met with a slight accident to the engine. Mayor Kennerly sent his auto-truck on with the hose.

It was soon seen that the Woodenware plant was doomed. There are some dozen or more hydrants in the Wilson mill yards adjoining. In order to protect this big concern and its vast piles of lumber among which sparks and burning tinder was constantly falling, these had to be opened. The opening of the Wilson hydrants of course failed to give sufficient pressure for the play of water on the burning plant.

The wind was blowing a brisk gale toward the city. Fire fighters know that if once the flames secured a hold on the big Wilson mill and lumber piles it meant the more than probable destruction of Palatka. Hundreds of citizens, business and professional men were in the Wilson grounds with buckets ready for every drooping cinder and they were all kept busy.

The loss of the Woodenware plant is almost complete. All its property was destroyed except one dry kiln and the stove mill. The buildings burned were the main mill, the finishing department, warehouses, one dry kiln, several store houses, oil house, blacksmith shop, boiler house and chocks mill.

Chas. Kupperbusch, vice president and general manager of the company states that the loss in stock and buildings will exceed \$50,000. The company had insurance to the amount of \$20,000, all placed with Palatka agencies. Of this amount the G. Loper Bailey Co. had placed \$9,500; Tucker Bros. \$6,000; T. B. Merrill \$4,000 and Knight & Dorn \$500.

There was in stock some 15,000 60-lb lard buckets and some 35,000 finished automobile chocks, in which the company enjoyed a large and growing trade with auto manufacturers in Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Kupperbusch stated that the plant was not at this time running full time, but that this is always a more or less dull season, though within 60 days they had every reason to believe that the factory would be working its capacity force of men on full time. As it is some 40 men will be temporarily out of employment.

The company will rebuild said Mr. Kupperbusch, and within 60 days it is likely we will be temporarily equipped to go on with the work. Of course, said he, it will take time to get back in the position we were in last Tuesday morning. Unfilled orders the company hopes to arrange to have filled by rival manufacturers in other cities.

The Florida Woodenware company has been in business here some six or seven years and has built up a splendid business. It makes lard tubs, buckets, etc., and its trade is with peckers and concerns dealing in lard substitutes, and other food products. The company is composed of F. H. Wilson, president; Chas. Kupperbusch Jr., vice president and manager; W. P. Merriam, secretary, and Chas. G. Grimm, treasurer.

That there was no lack of water pressure at the pumping station is attested by Mayor Kennerly, City Engineer Stollings and the gauge. Mr. Stallings was called up on the telephone by Mayor Kennerly at the breaking out of the fire and asked about the pressure, and his reply was that it was 95 pounds to the square inch. Mr. Stollings assures The News that this pressure was certainly on at the time, although in the neighborhood of the fire this would probably be reduced to 50 pounds to the square inch, sufficient however for the needs of the fire.

The company is grateful to the people of Palatka for their quick response and help, and the Wilson company feels this same gratitude.

G. LOPER BAILEY BUYS SCHOOL BLOCK

At Master's Sale and There-
by Invites Certain Liti-
gation.

Under and by virtue of a decree of foreclosure and sale rendered in the circuit court by Hon. James T. Wills on the 30th day of March, wherein Robert J. Edwards and Francis L. Chapin, as executors and trustees under the last will and testament of Jacob Edwards, deceased, were complainants and the Florida Commercial Co., a corporation, was defendant, Hon. E. E. Haskell as Special Master, on Monday in front of the court house, sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, who happened to be Mr. G. Loper Bailey of this city, about one-half of block No. 53 in the city of Palatka—and thereby hangs a tale.

Block No. 53 in its entirety happens to be the block which was purchased a little more than two years ago by the Putnam county board of public instruction for the purposes of a Palatka High School building. The school board purchased the property of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, was given a WARRANTY DEED to the property. The consideration was \$5,000.

The story of the transaction though fresh in the memory of some is repeated for the benefit of the many.

The people of Palatka were demanding better school facilities. Only a short time before the people had organized the Palatka Special Tax School District. Howell A. Davis, always a plugger for betterments, was chairman of the board of trustees for this special tax district. He and the other members of the board saw that Palatka would soon demand better school quarters. Desirable property in a good location was scarce. Mr. Davis and his conferees settled upon block 53. They learned that it was the property of the A. C. L. R'y.

Mr. Davis approached the company by correspondence with the view to purchase; he was met with reply that the property was not for sale; Mr. Davis is not a quitter; he went back to the railway company again. The correspondence that resulted over this desire to purchase was voluminous. Finally, when its need for school purposes was thoroughly understood, the company receded. It asked Mr. Davis to name a price. This Mr. Davis refused to do, but he suggested that the railway correspond with real estate men of Palatka and get a valuation. Two real estate men were consulted. One firm named a valuation of \$6,000; another named \$5,000. When the company had considered these values its officials wrote Mr. Davis and named a price of \$5,500. This was accepted by Mr. Davis and his board.

The company wanted to know to whom the deed should be made; Mr. Davis replied that it should be made out to the Putnam County School Commissioners (naming them) and their successors in office, send the deed to the Putnam National Bank, together with a draft on the county school board for the amount. This was done. The deed laid in bank three days and during that time the attorney employed by the board examined it and pronounced it straight, as indeed it was.

Then the money was paid. Of this amount the Putnam county board advanced \$3,000 with the understanding that when the amount was paid back to the county, they would execute a deed of the property to the Palatka Special Tax District. The Palatka district at the time had to its credit \$2,500, which was paid with the \$3,000 from the county.

It was only late last year that any suspicion gained currency that there was a cloud on the A. C. L. Railroad's title.

The question hinged upon whether a paper executed in 1895 by the Florida Commercial Company to Jacob Edwards was a deed or a mortgage. This document Judge Wills has construed to be a mortgage, and the sale last Monday was a foreclosure of that mortgage. It is a peculiar document, one that has puzzled lawyers to understand.

Last Monday on advice of Attorney A. H. Odum, Landis & Fish of DeLand and MacWilliams & Bassett of St. Augustine, the latter firms being attorneys for the A. C. L., Mr. Frank D. Wattle, since January, chairman of the Putnam County School Board, had a high wire fence erected surrounding the block, together with a gate which was closed and locked and to which was attached a "No Trespass" sign. The A. C. L. authorized Mr. Thippin, its local agent, to lend the section hands of the road here to assist in erecting this fence. The fence simply is a legal formality denoting possession.

Hon. Robert W. Davis of Gainesville who was in the city on Monday in consultation with Mr. Bailey, has given the opinion that his title is perfect. This to about one-half the block. Other lawyers are of same opinion. The court also so ruled when it made the order for sale under foreclosure of the mortgage.

That the county is safe is shown in the fact that its title is a WARRANTY DEED. The A. C. L. R'y will undoubtedly make good its warrant. But it is more than likely that it will defend its title and that is why The News makes the prediction that Mr. Bailey has invited litigation.

The description of the part of the block purchased by Mr. Bailey is one that will also make it difficult for

PALATKA'S UP AGAINST SOME PROPOSITION

In this Dixie Highway Mat-
ter Alleges Secretary
Kennerly.

Secretary C. H. Kennerly of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, who appeared before the Jacksonville board of trade on Tuesday on invitation of the secretary of that body, says that Palatka has some work on its hands if it secures the proposed highway.

Mr. Kennerly states that it is private opinion publicly expressed that Jacksonville will secure this highway which is to run from Chicago to south Florida. He further gives it as his opinion that Jacksonville's trade body will favor the highway running from that city to St. Augustine and Hastings, although if sufficient pressure is brought to bear on them from the towns on the west side of the river that Jacksonville will likely throw its influence with the western route.

At the meeting in Jacksonville Mr. Kennerly was alone in representing Palatka, but eight members of the St. Augustine board were present to urge the east coast route. They had some argument too, said Mr. Kennerly. They made the statement that St. Johns county offered 66 miles of brick roadway as a connecting link between Duval and Volusia counties, which is a fact.

In the event that the highway should be located on the east side of the river it will be up to Palatka to secure the route from Hastings to Palatka and thence south via DeLand. Kissimmee is already making an effort to secure the highway and if other towns down through the interior of the state will do their part it is possible that the highway may lead through the most interesting part of Florida—its interior.

Palatka has two chances. If the highway runs to the east, we will work to secure its continuance here and on south. If it shall be decided to come south from Jacksonville on the west side of the river, Palatka would secure it. This route, however, in the light of present sentiment, seems unlikely.

CONTRACTOR BOGART TO BUILD BRICK FLAT

For Mrs. Ella H. Brown, To
Accommodate Four
Families

Mrs. Ella H. Brown of Rensselaer, Indiana, who has just purchased grounds of Miss Mulholland in her addition on an extension of North Second street, has let a contract to Contractor Bogart for a four-family flat, which is to be erected immediately.

The new flat is to be of brick veneer and ornamental. It will be on the west side of the new street and facing the river.

Miss Mulholland has already begun opening up the street through her extensive grounds, and concrete sidewalks are being laid. This large property has been cut up into lots and will be placed on the market, where they will undoubtedly, owing to their excellence of location, find a ready sale.

Mr. F. H. Wilson some time ago purchased a lot of Miss Mulholland nearer the river, and it is understood he contemplates the erection of a handsome residence at an early day.

When Talk Begins.

Hostess—"People are very dull tonight, Adolph. I really can't get them to talk." Host—"Play something, dearest."—Judy.

A Real Peach.

Our idea of a peach is the wife of a man who thinks she is prettier than the cashier at his favorite restaurant. —Galveston News.

him to know just what he has purchased. Sit down and draw a square. Then trace out this description:

Begin at N. W. corner of said block 53, run south along west line to S. W. corner, thence east along south line to S. E. corner, thence north along east line about 13.5 feet to a point 20 feet, measured at right angles from the center of the railroad track as located across said block 53, thence in a N. W. direction along a line parallel with and 20 feet from the center of said track to the north boundary of said block 53 thence west about 32 feet to place of beginning.

What will make the description particularly hard to follow is the fact that there is no railroad track crossing the block. There once was such a track, but it was long since torn up.

It will be a matter of general regret if the school board has to lose this valuable piece of property. It is in every way most desirable. Certainly no censure can be placed on the men who engineered the purchase. A warranty deed, which was pronounced good by attorneys, coming from the Atlantic Coast Line Railway would be accepted by any good man of business.

FRESH WATER FISH BILL DECAPITATED

Its Enactment Meant Much
to Fishing Industry of
State.

By striking out the enacting clause of the fresh water fishing bill, the House of Representatives at Tallahassee has gone on record as opposed to any state supervision of or protection to, the fish in the fresh water lakes and streams of the state. And not only this, but the action is believed to have weakened the powers of the state game and fish commissioner in his enforcement of laws already existing.

The enactment of this bill into law was important to the fishing interests of Putnam county. In fact the bill had its inception at Welaka in this county, where the fishing industry is prominent. The time had come when the fishermen themselves felt the need of protection in the prosecution of their business. The bill provided for a closed, or spawning season; a time when under the provisions of the law it would have been impossible for fishermen to violate it. It provided many other essentials for the protection of the fresh water fishing industry and would have been instrumental in guaranteeing an unfailing supply of fish for all time.

At present the statutes of Florida abound in countless local fish laws—laws for practically every little stream and lake and those of one county usually conflict with the local laws of an adjoining county. This bill which has gone to its grave without that investigation into its rights to live which a legislature in reason ought to bestow upon a measure of such import, would have been a blessing to Florida. The fishing industry of Florida is so vast and affords such a magnificent revenue to the people that its conservation becomes a duty of the state. It is one of the state's great natural resources, one which the legislature of 1915 has said may slide. It is a natural resource the conservation of which is of vastly greater importance than that of game.

LAW FORMING NEW JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

May be Unconstitutional—
Supreme Court to Pass
on Measure.

A Tallahassee telegram on Wednesday evening says:

The bill by Senator Farris of Jacksonville, creating the new Twelfth judicial circuit and providing for two circuit judges for the district, which is Duval and Nassau counties, must run the gauntlet of the supreme court as to its constitutionality before it will be signed by the governor.

Senator Farris said today that he has had grave doubts as to the constitutionality of the measure, and it was understood that the governor would ask the supreme court for an opinion thereon before signing it.

The doubt exists as to the right under the constitution to provide more than one circuit judge for any one judicial circuit, and senatorial legal opinions differ, as there is evident room for construction either way.

It is understood the governor will make the request of the supreme court very soon and the opinion will be handed down as soon as an examination of the matter can be made.

On the constitutionality of this bill will depend the changing of Putnam county to the new circuit which under the provisions of the bill becomes a part of the new Fourth Judicial Circuit formed by the three counties of Clay, St. Johns and Putnam.

The contest however over who will receive the appointment as judge of the new circuit goes merrily on. The candidates are Hon. S. J. Hilburn and A. H. Odum of this city, and David R. Dunham of St. Augustine. J. N. Blackwell of this city and Col. E. Noble Calhoun of St. Augustine are candidates for State's attorney for the new circuit.

Chamber of Commerce Quarters.

The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce has rented the store at the east entrance of the Howell Arcade and is fitting the same up for permanent quarters in an attractive manner. E. Madison the artistic sign painter of the Palatka Sign Co. is placing some attractive lettering on the window and the interior has been fitted up with desks, chairs, etc., preparatory to meetings. The location is one of prominence and Secretary Kennerly, who will undoubtedly make it his headquarters, will be in position to gather in the stranger at our gates and fill him with Palatka lore to the point where he will want to come in and dwell with us. The new trade board is starting out with zeal and a whole lot of bottled up energy for Putnam county and Palatka, which will be uncorked at the proper time and made to tell for the welfare of this section.

Extra fine new cane syrup
in new Cypress barrels.
15 cts. Qt.
L. C. STEPHENS,
628 Kirby Street.
